The Office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been implementing various schemes like Baba Sahib Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY), Marketing Support and Services, Design and Technology Upgradation, Research and Development, Human Resource Development and Welfare Scheme for Handicraft Artisans on all India basis including Nagaland.

(b) and (c) For the Development of Handlooms and Handicrafts in Northern Eastern Region (NER) in general 10% of the total annual Budget outlay is earmarked for implementing above mentioned schemes including the State of Nagaland.

Textile and clothing sector overlooked in 2008-09 budget

1081. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that textile and clothing sector have been overlooked in the 2008-09 budget;

(b) whether any provision would be made in 2008-09 budget for crises-ridden textile and clothing sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No, Sir. The budget (plan) outlay, of the Ministry of Textiles during 2008-09, has been enhanced to Rs. 2500.00 crore from Rs. 2243.00 crore during 2007-08, registering an increase of 11.00 per cent.

(b) to (d) The total budget (plan) allocation for the Ministry of Textiles has been enhanced to Rs. 2880.00 crore at Revised Estimate (RE) stage. The RE for the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme stands at Rs. 1644.89 crore, as against the Budget Estimate (BE) of Rs. 1140.00 crore.

Higher price of cotton *vis-a-vis* Pakistan

†1082. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of cotton in India is higher than that of Pakistan's and Indian cotton mills are fulfilling their requirement by purchasing cotton from abroad;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard; and

(c) how it has affected purchase of cotton in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The prices of Indian cotton are higher than Pakistan cotton. Date-wise

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.